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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Letter dated 30 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to my letter dated 27 June 2000, I have the honour to transmit to you a cable message from Mustafa Osman Ismail, Minister of External Relations, on the violation by the rebel movement, the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army, of the ceasefire, which it declared on 8 May 2000.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its attachment as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 20 (b).

(*Signed*) Elfatih Mohamed Ahmed **Erwa**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 30 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

I have the honour to refer to the statement on the rebel movement's renewed violation of the ceasefire it proclaimed on 8 May 2000 in many parts of the greater Bahr al-Ghazal region that was issued by the Ministry for External Relations of the Sudan on 22 June 2000 and transmitted to you by the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations on 27 June 2000 (A/54/933, annex).

I regret to inform you that the repeated attacks recently launched by the rebel movement have resulted in its seizure of the town of Gogrial in the Bahr al-Ghazal region. You are well aware of the vulnerable humanitarian situation in the area and of the repercussions it will have for all districts in Bahr al-Ghazal, as was the case with the developments that took place in the first quarter of 1998, just as you are aware of the human catastrophe produced by similar incidents such as the attack launched by the rebel movement on the town of Wau and other areas in Bahr al-Ghazal.

Although the Government had announced its decision for a ceasefire in all parts of the Sudan for humanitarian reasons and for the purpose of allowing the humanitarian organizations safe access to affected citizens, in its announcements the rebel movement had nevertheless continued to restrict the ceasefire to the Bahr al-Ghazal region. The movement's violation of the commitments it gave to the international community with respect to this area alone will therefore have far-reaching and complex implications for the humanitarian situation in the entire region.

I should also like to refer to your statement concerning the ongoing fighting in this area, in which the two parties are equated with each other. We can nevertheless affirm that the Government of the Sudan is certain that all the international agencies and humanitarian organizations participating in Operation Lifeline Sudan and all the non-governmental organizations operating in the Bahr al-Ghazal region are fully aware of the fact that the rebel movement had continued to plan for a resumption of the fighting, had in fact begun it some time before and had persisted in this through a number of attempted attacks before the fall of Gogrial.

The Government is therefore anxious to bring the record of the facts relating to the recent events in the Bahr al-Ghazal region to your attention and to that of international public opinion. It will thence be possible to identify the party that would, God forbid, cause another human catastrophe in the Bahr al-Ghazal region as a result of the rebel movement's violation of the ceasefire. The international community can also thus meet its responsibility to bring all possible pressure to bear on the rebel movement so as to induce it to desist from such irresponsible actions and to abide by its undertakings and commitments to maintain the ceasefire so that the United Nations humanitarian organizations can have safe and unimpeded access to the people affected in the region.

The Government of the Sudan would like to affirm its sovereign and legitimate right to respond to the rebel movement's violation of the ceasefire in order to defend the safety of its citizens and territory by all legitimate means.

In closing, I should like to assure you of the Government's commitment and resolve to proceed towards the achievement of a just and lasting peace.

(*Signed*) Mustafa Osman **Ismail**
Minister of External Relations